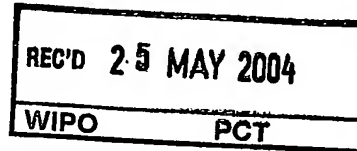




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03007101.3

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Anmeldung Nr:
Application no.: 03007101.3
Demande no:

Anmeldetag:
Date of filing: 28.03.03
Date de dépôt:

Anmelder/Applicant(s)/Demandeur(s):

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Synergistic combination

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Staat/Tag/Aktenzeichen/State/Date/File no./Pays/Date/Numéro de dépôt:

Internationale Patentklassifikation/International Patent Classification/
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A61K31/00

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Synergistic combination

Field of application of the invention

The invention relates to the combination of certain known active compounds for therapeutic purposes. The substances used in the combination according to the invention are a known active compound from the PDE inhibitor class and active compounds from the anticholinergic agent class. Their combined use in the sense according to the invention for therapeutic purposes has not yet been described in the prior art.

Prior art

International patent application WO02/069945 generally describes the combination of a compound from the class of PDE4 inhibitors with a compound from the class of anticholinergic agents for the treatment of respiratory tract disorders. International Patent application WO02/096463 describes an inhaled combination of a selective PDE4 inhibitor and an anticholinergic agent, with the proviso that the anticholinergic agent is not a tiotropium salt. International patent application WO02/096423 describes a combination of therapeutic agents useful in the treatment of obstructive airways and other inflammatory diseases comprising (I) a PDE4 inhibitor that is therapeutically effective in the treatment of said diseases when administered by inhalation; together with (II) an anticholinergic agent comprising a member selected from the group consisting of tiotropium and derivatives thereof that is therapeutically effective in the treatment of said diseases when administered by inhalation.

Summary of the invention

The invention relates to pharmaceutical products and methods for preventing or reducing the onset of symptoms of respiratory diseases, or treating or reducing the severity of respiratory diseases. In particular it relates to compositions and methods for treating respiratory diseases mediated by phosphodiesterase 4 (PDE4) by administering a PDE4 inhibitor together with another pharmaceutically active agent, which affects pulmonary function. In this connection, it is the object of the present invention to make available a certain respiratory tract therapeutic, which fulfills the following conditions:

- Pronounced antiinflammatory action
- Distinct bronchorelaxation and -dilatation
- Good bioavailability
- Minor side effects

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- Good suitability for long-term therapy
- Favorable influence on bronchial hyperreactivity

It has now been found that the combined use of the orally or intravenously administered PDE4 inhibitor roflumilast and the topical administration of an anticholinergic agent selected from the group of ipratropium, oxitropium and tiotropium salts outstandingly fulfills the abovementioned conditions, in particular in view of the fact that the combination of the compounds acts synergistically, i. e. exhibits a greater than additive effect.

Accordingly, the invention relates in a first aspect to a method for preventing or reducing the onset of symptoms of a respiratory disease, or treating or reducing the severity of a respiratory disease by administering to a patient in need thereof in succession, close in time or remote in time, in any order whatever to a patient in need thereof (1) an effective amount of roflumilast orally or intravenously and (2) an effective amount of an anticholinergic agent selected from the group of ipratropium, oxitropium and tiotropium salts topically.

The invention also relates to a pharmaceutical product for preventing or reducing the onset of symptoms of a respiratory disease, or treating or reducing the severity of a respiratory disease, comprising as a free combination

- (a) an effective amount of roflumilast in a formulation suited for oral or intravenous administration and
- (b) an effective amount of an anticholinergic agent selected from the group of ipratropium, oxitropium and tiotropium salts in a formulation suited for topical administration.

Detailed description of the invention

The combination therapy which is the subject matter of this invention comprises administering roflumilast with an anticholinergic agent selected from the group of ipratropium, oxitropium or tiotropium salts to prevent onset of a respiratory disease event or to treat an existing condition.

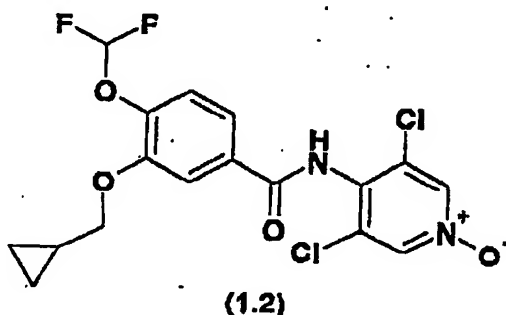
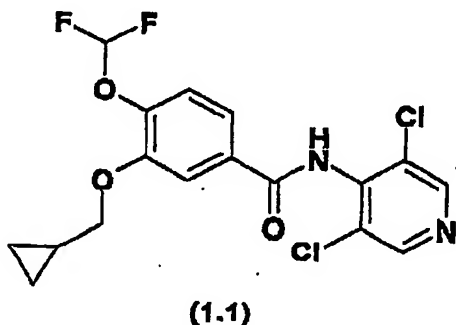
According to the invention, the two compounds are administered in different dosage forms. The selective PDE4 inhibitor roflumilast is administered orally or intravenously, while the anticholinergic agent selected from the group of ipratropium, oxitropium and tiotropium salts is administered by inhalation. The two compounds of the combination according to the invention are administered sequentially, i.e. the compounds are administered one after the other (close in time or remote in time), whereby roflumilast can be administered first and the anticholinergic agent thereafter or vice versa.

The combination may be used prophylactically or after the onset of symptoms has occurred. In some instances the combination may be used to prevent the progression of a respiratory disease or to arrest the decline of a function such as lung function.

The invention thus relates to the combined use of roflumilast and an anticholinergic agent selected from the group of ipratropium, oxitropium or tiotropium salts, preferably ipratropium bromide, oxitropium bromide or tiotropium bromide in preventing the symptoms of, or treating a respiratory disease.

In the sense of the invention, the term "roflumilast" is understood to include the pharmaceutically acceptable salts and the N-oxide of ROFLUMILAST, which can likewise be used according to the invention.

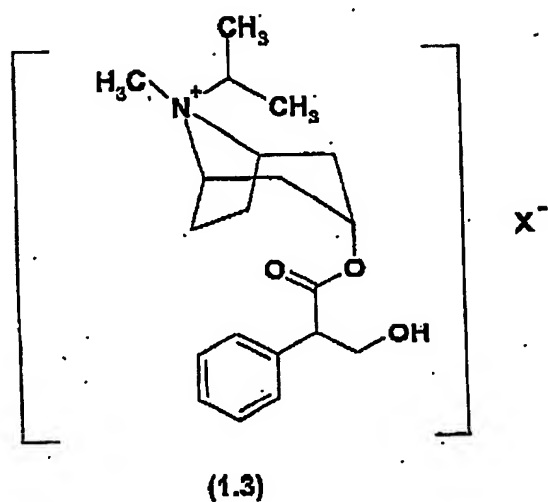
ROFLUMILAST is the international non proprietary name (INN) for 3-cyclopropylmethoxy-4-difluoromethoxy-N-(3,5-dichloropyrid-4-yl)benzamide [structure of formula (1.1)]. The preparation of 3-cyclopropylmethoxy-4-difluoromethoxy-N-(3,5-dichloropyrid-4-yl)benzamide, its pharmaceutically acceptable salts and its N-oxide [3-cyclopropylmethoxy-4-difluoromethoxy-N-(3,5-dichloro-1-oxypyrid-4-yl)benzamide; structure of formula (1.2)] as well as the use of these compounds as phosphodiesterase (PDE) 4 inhibitors is described in WO95/01338.



Suitable pharmacologically acceptable salts of 3-cyclopropylmethoxy-4-difluoromethoxy-N-(3,5-dichloropyrid-4-yl)benzamide (ROFLUMILAST) are in particular water-soluble and water-insoluble acid addition salts with acids such as, for example, hydrochloric acid, hydrobromic acid, phosphoric acid, nitric acid, sulfuric acid, acetic acid, citric acid, D-gluconic acid, benzoic acid, 2-(4-hydroxybenzoyl)-benzoic acid, butyric acid, sulfosalicylic acid, maleic acid, lauric acid, malic acid, fumaric acid, succinic acid, oxalic acid, tartaric acid, embonic acid, stearic acid, toluenesulfonic acid, methanesulfonic acid or 1-hydroxy-2-naphthoic acid, the acids being employed in salt preparation – depending on whether it is a mono- or polybasic acid and depending on which salt is desired – in an equimolar quantitative ratio or one differing therefrom.

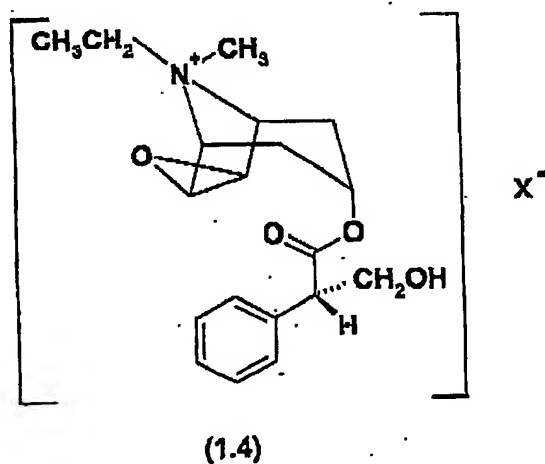
Anticholinergic agents suitable for use in the invention are ipratropium, oxitropium or tiotropium salts.

An ipratropium salt (see DE1670142) has the structure of formula (1.3)



wherein X^- is a pharmaceutically acceptable anion.

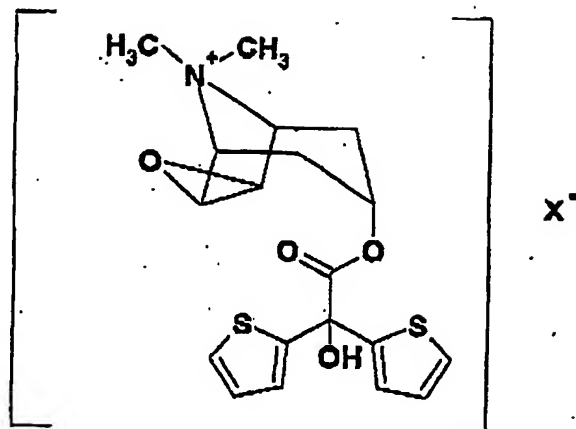
An oxitropium salt (see DE1795818) has the structure of formula (1.4)



wherein X^- is a pharmaceutically acceptable anion.

A tiotropium salt (see EP 418716, WO02/051840) has the structure of formula (1.5):

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(1.5)

wherein X^- is a pharmaceutically acceptable anion.

Examples of suitable salt forms of ipratropium, oxitropium and tiotropium are fluoride, F^- chloride, Cl^- ; bromide, Br^- ; iodide, I^- ; methanesulfonate, $CH_3S(=O)_2O^-$; ethanesulfonate, $CH_3CH_2S(=O)_2O^-$; methylsulfate, $CH_3OS(=O)_2O^-$; benzene sulfonate $C_6H_5S(=O)_2O^-$; and para-toluenesulfonate, $4-CH_3-C_6H_4S(=O)_2O^-$. The bromide salt form is preferred.

Preferred combinations for use in the invention include:

- roflumilast and an ipratropium salt, particularly ipratropium bromide
- roflumilast and an oxitropium salt, particularly oxitropium bromide
- roflumilast and a tiotropium salt, particularly tiotropium bromide or tiotropium bromide monohydrate

It is understood that the active compounds and their pharmaceutically acceptable salts mentioned can also be present, for example, in the form of their pharmaceutically acceptable solvates, in particular in the form of their hydrates. Of particular importance in this connection is tiotropium bromide in form of its crystalline monohydrate as disclosed and described in detail in WO02/30928.

Respiratory diseases which may be mentioned are in particular allergen- and inflammation-induced bronchial disorders (bronchitis, obstructive bronchitis, spastic bronchitis, allergic bronchitis, allergic asthma, bronchial asthma, COPD), which can be treated by the combination according to the invention also in the sense of a long-term therapy (if desired with appropriate adjustment of the dose of the individual components to the needs at the time, for example needs subject to seasonally related variations). The combination is particularly useful in the treatment of COPD.

"Combined use" or "combination" within the meaning of the present invention is to be understood as meaning that the individual components are administered in succession (from separate pack units), close in time or remote in time, in any order whatever. As an example, the two drugs could be taken one after the other; or one drug could be taken in the morning and one later in the day. In a further scenario, one drug could be taken twice daily and the other once daily, either at the same time as one of the twice-a-day dosing occurred, or separately.

"Combined use" or "combination" within the meaning of the present invention is particularly to be understood as meaning that the two components act together in a synergistic manner.

Within the meaning of the present invention, "use" is to be understood as meaning with respect to roflumilast the oral or intravenous administration. The oral administration can be accomplished, for example, in form of tablets, coated tablets, capsules, caplets, emulsions, suspensions or solutions, the active compound content advantageously being between 0.1 and 95% and where by appropriate choice of the auxiliaries and/or excipients, a pharmaceutical administration form exactly suited to the desired onset of action can be achieved. The intravenous administration is accomplished customarily in form of aqueous solutions, optionally containing suitable co-solvents.

The person skilled in the art is familiar with auxiliaries and/or excipients, which are suitable for the desired oral or intravenous pharmaceutical formulations of roflumilast on account of his/her expert knowledge. In addition to solvents other active compound excipients, for example antioxidants, dispersants, emulsifiers, preservatives, solubilizers, colorants, complexing agents or permeation promoters, can be used.

With respect to the anticholinergic agents, "use" in accordance with the invention is to be understood to mean topical application in inhalative form. As suitable administration forms for inhalation may be mentioned inhalation powders, propellant-containing aerosols and propellant-free inhalation solutions.

The anticholinergic agents of the present invention may be conveniently delivered in the form of a dry powder inhaler or an aerosol spray presentation from a pressurized container, pump, spray, atomizer (preferably an atomizer using electrodynamics to produce a fine mist) or nebulizer, with or without the use of a suitable propellant, e. g. dichlorodifluoromethane, trichlorofluoromethane, dichlorotetrafluoroethane, a hydrofluoroalkane such as 1,1,2,2-tetrafluoroethane (HFA 134A [trade mark]) or, 1,1,1,2,3,3,3-heptafluoropropane (HFA 227EA [trade mark]), carbon dioxide, a further perfluorinated hydrocarbon such as Perflubon [trade mark] or other suitable gas. In the case of a pressurized aerosol, the dosage unit may be determined by providing a valve to deliver a metered dose. The pressurized container, pump, spray, or nebulizer may contain a solution or suspension of the anticholinergic agent, e. g. using a mixture of ethanol (optionally aqueous ethanol) or a suitable agent for dispersing,

solubilizing or extending release and the propellant as the solvent, which may additionally contain a lubricant, e.g. sorbitan trioleate. Capsules, blisters and cartridges (made, for example, from gelatin or HMPC) for use in an inhaler or insufflator may be formulated to contain a powder mix of anticholinergic agent of the invention, a suitable powder base, such as lactose or starch and a performance modifier such as L-leucine, mannitol or magnesium stearate.

Prior to use in a dry powder formulation for inhalation an anticholinergic agent of the invention will be micronised to a size suitable for delivery by inhalation (typically considered as less than 5 microns). Micronisation could be achieved by a range of methods, for example spiral jet milling, fluid bed jet milling or use of supercritical fluid crystallization.

A suitable solution formulation for use in an atomizer using electrohydrodynamics to produce a fine-mist may contain from 1 µg to 10 mg of an anticholinergic agent of the invention and the actuation volume may vary from 1 to 100 µl. A typical formulation may comprise an anticholinergic agent of the invention, propylene glycol, sterile water, ethanol and sodium chloride.

Aerosol or dry powder formulations are preferably arranged so that each metered dose or "puff" contains from 1 to 4000 µg of an anticholinergic agent of the invention for delivery to the patient. The overall daily dose with an aerosol will be in the range from 1 µg to 20 mg which may be administered in a single dose or, alternatively, in divided doses throughout the day.

With respect to tiotropium bromide or tiotropium bromide monohydrate suitable tiotropium-containing powdery preparations for inhalative administration are disclosed in the international application WO02/30389. In the international application WO02/098874 inhalation capsules (Inhalettes) containing the active agent tiotropium in the form of a powder preparation are disclosed. Propellant-free inhalation formulations of tiotropium bromide or tiotropium bromide monohydrate are disclosed in the international applications WO02/36104 and WO02/36591.

For the above-mentioned prophylactic and therapeutic uses the dosages administered will, of course vary with the first and second active compound employed, the treatment desired and the disorder indicated.

The active compounds are dosed in an order of magnitude customary for the individual dose, it more likely being possible, on account of the individual actions, which are mutually positively influencing and reinforcing, to reduce the respective doses on the combined administration of the active compounds compared with the norm. For inhalation, ipratropium bromide is intended to be administered in a dose of preferably 1 to 3 mg per day by once, twice, three or four times daily administration; oxitropium bromide is intended to be administered in a dose of preferably 0.2 to 0.6 mg per day by once, twice or

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three times daily administration; tiotropium bromide monohydrate is intended to be administered in a dose of 10 to 25 µg per day by once daily administration.

In the case of the oral administration of 3-cyclopropylmethoxy-4-difluoromethoxy-N-(3,5-dichloropyrid-4-yl)benzamide (ROFLUMILAST) the daily dose is in the range from 100 to 500 µg per day, preferably by once daily administration.

Patent claims

1. A pharmaceutical product for preventing or reducing the onset of symptoms of a respiratory disease, or treating or reducing the severity of a respiratory disease, comprising as a free combination
 - (a) an effective amount of roflumilast in a formulation suited for oral administration and
 - (b) an effective amount of an anticholinergic agent selected from the group of ipratropium, oxitropium and tiotropium salts in a formulation suited for administration by inhalation.
2. A pharmaceutical product for preventing or reducing the onset of symptoms of a respiratory disease, or treating or reducing the severity of a respiratory disease, comprising as a free combination
 - (a) an effective amount of roflumilast in a formulation suited for intravenous administration and
 - (b) an effective amount of an anticholinergic agent selected from the group of ipratropium, oxitropium and tiotropium salts in a formulation suited for administration by inhalation.
3. A pharmaceutical product according to claim 1 or 2 wherein the anticholinergic agent is tiotropium bromide or tiotropium bromide monohydrate.
4. A pharmaceutical product according to claim 1 or 2 wherein the anticholinergic agent is ipratropium bromide.
5. A pharmaceutical product according to claim 1 or 2 wherein the anticholinergic agent is oxitropium bromide.
6. A pharmaceutical product according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein roflumilast represents 3-cyclopropylmethoxy-4-difluoromethoxy-N-(3,5-dichloropyrid-4-yl)benzamide.
7. A pharmaceutical product according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein roflumilast represents 3-cyclopropylmethoxy-4-difluoromethoxy-N-(3,5-dichloro-1-oxypyrid-4-yl)benzamide.
8. A method for preventing or reducing the onset of symptoms of a respiratory disease, or treating or reducing the severity of a respiratory disease by administering sequentially, close in time or remote in time, in any order whatever to a patient in need thereof (1) an effective amount of roflumilast orally and (2) an effective amount of an anticholinergic agent selected from the group of ipratropium, oxitropium and tiotropium salts by inhalation.

9. A method for preventing or reducing the onset of symptoms of a respiratory disease, or treating or reducing the severity of a respiratory disease by administering sequentially, close in time or remote in time, in any order whatever to a patient in need thereof (1) an effective amount of roflumilast intravenously and (2) an effective amount of an anticholinergic agent selected from the group of ipratropium, oxitropium and tiotropium salts by inhalation.

10. A method according to claim 8 or 9 wherein the anticholinergic agent is tiotropium bromide or tiotropium bromide monohydrate.

11. A method according to claim 8 or 9 wherein the anticholinergic agent is ipratropium bromide.

12. A method according to claim 8 or 9 wherein the anticholinergic agent is oxitropium bromide.

13. A method according to any one of claims 8 to 12, wherein roflumilast represents 3-cyclopropylmethoxy-4-difluoromethoxy-N-(3,5-dichloropyrid-4-yl)benzamide.

14. A method according to any one of claims 8 to 12, wherein roflumilast represents 3-cyclopropylmethoxy-4-difluoromethoxy-N-(3,5-dichloro-1-oxypyrid-4-yl)benzamide.

15. Medicament pack, containing (a) roflumilast as active ingredient in a formulation suited for oral or intravenous administration and (b) a description that roflumilast can be administered, for reducing the onset of symptoms of a respiratory disease, or for treating or reducing the severity of a respiratory disease together with an anticholinergic agent selected from the group of ipratropium, oxitropium and tiotropium salts in a formulation suited for administration by inhalation, sequentially, where the sequential administration is close in time or remote in time and in any order whatever.

Abstract

The invention relates to the administration of roflumilast and an anticholinergic agent selected from the group of an ipratropium, oxitropium or tiotropium salt for the treatment of respiratory diseases.

PCT/EP2004/050377



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